YOUNG WINGS

THE JUNIOR LITERARY GUILD

The Book Club for Young Readers

In the United States and Canada

JANUARY 1953

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YOUNG WINGS

From The Junior Literary Guild

Helen Ferris, Editor-in-Chief

Ruth Clement Hoyer, Editor of *Young Wings*

What to Do about Shasha!

MILLIE, the mother cat, was worried. Yes, worried and even terrified. Hers was a good home, and she had been happy there—that is, until now. It was the baby that worried her. Shasha was only two and very rough on her toys and on everything else she touched. Oh, no! It wasn't for herself that Millie was afraid. She could keep out of Shasha's way. But—well, you see, Millie had three brand-new babies, three tiny kittens, and Shasha wanted to play with them.

"I must hide the kittens in a safe place," Millie told herself. "Babies are so dangerous."

And so Millie tried hard to hide Percy and Polly and Pete. She hid them in the hall closet. She hid them in a chest drawer. Again and again and again she tried to find some place where Shasha would not find them. But it was no use. Each time Millie had to move her babies to a new place. What happens then is told to you five and six year olds in *Percy, Polly, and Pete*, written and illustrated by Clare Turlay Newberry.

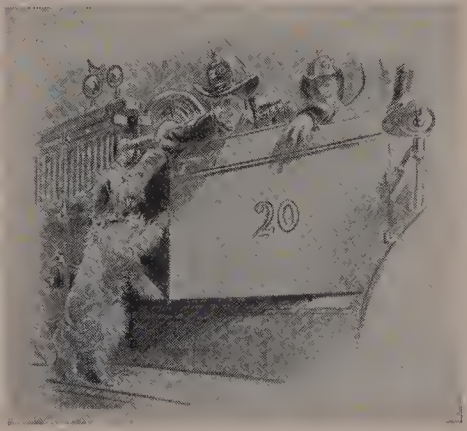
On pages eight and nine you will meet a new Junior Literary Guild author. There Clare Turlay Newberry tells about herself and her family and about some of the many charming picture books she has written and illustrated.

Millie watches over her babies as Shasha tries to play with them

Percy, Polly, and Pete by Clare Turlay Newberry is the new Junior Guild selection for 5 and 6 year old Members. It is published in the regular trade edition by Harper and Brothers at $2.00. Dewey Classification: F (Fiction). Subject heading: Picture books.

Rags Goes to the Rescue

THIS way, boys and girls! Right this way to the firehouse—to Engine Company Number 20. Meet Tom and Sam and all the other firemen. And meet their friend and mascot, Rags of the not-so-long, not-so-short tail. She lives a busy life, but she likes it. She watches over everything. She sees that the men do a good job of their sweeping and cleaning, their polishing and oiling. Then



when the men finish their work, they are ready to romp and play with the shaggy, little brown-and-white dog.

Sometimes Rags lies outside the firehouse, and the boys and girls who pass stop to pat her. But always her ears are listening so as not to miss the signal that calls the men to a fire, for she goes along, sitting between Tom and Sam on the pumper.

It's this little dog's story which Elizabeth Morton tells you seven and eight year olds in her new book, *Rags, The Firehouse Dog*. Read it and share Rags's adventures. One day she misses the fire signal and has to chase the engines down the busy street while the policeman holds back all traffic. Another day she has to miss the

fire altogether when her paw is caught in the door. What a story! Fun for you all.

Engine Company Number 20 is a real firehouse. Tom and Sam and the other firemen are real, and so is Rags. You will find them in Philadelphia. Elizabeth Morton knows them all, and she tells you about them on pages ten and eleven. She also talks about Morgan Dennis, who made the many lovely pictures for her book. You Junior Guild Members already know Mr. Dennis, as you will see when you read the back cover.

Rags, The Firehouse Dog by Elizabeth Morton is the new Junior Literary Guild selection for 7 and 8 year old Members. It is published in the regular trade edition by The John C. Winston Company at $2.00. Dewey Classification: F (Fiction). Subject headings: 1. Dogs—Fiction. 2. Picture books.

They Just Must Help Tommy

IT ISN'T everyone who has a grandstand seat for football games right in his own house. But Susan has one. So does George.

So does Dumpling. You see, the Ridgeways' house is only a block and a half from Midwest University's stadium, and at one corner of their house is a tower with windows all around. From the east window there is a wonderful view of the playing field. So every Saturday afternoon during the football season, Susan, George, and Dumpling climb up, up, up into their private tower to watch the game and to cheer for Tommy Tucker, the greatest quarterback Midwest has ever had and their own special friend.

There's fun for you nine, ten, and eleven year olds in your new book, *Family Grandstand* by Carol Ryrie Brink, for something's always going on around that Ridgeway house. There's mystery, too. Why should the usually gay Tommy Tucker suddenly turn sad and behave strangely? Why should he begin to talk about not playing football? The Ridgeways asked themselves those questions, but they did not stop with just asking. They did something about it. They had problems of their own, too, to work out—one of them having to do with Torrible Terrence. That birthday-gift dog was eating up everything in the house. Money was what they needed—money to buy food for the huge dog. But how could they earn it?

Carol Ryrie Brink, a new Junior Guild author, is introduced to you on page twelve. The illustrator for Mrs. Brink's new book is Jean Macdonald Porter, who has been the artist for several Junior Guild books, as you will see when you read about her on the back cover of YOUNG WINGS.

Family Grandstand by Carol Ryrie Brink is the new Junior Guild selection for 9, 10, and 11 year old Members. It is published in the regular trade edition by The Viking Press, Inc., at $2.50. Dewey Classification: F (Fiction).

He Had to Be Ready for Anything

PERHAPS it's a good thing that we do not always know what's before us. Certainly if Steve could have foreseen the future, he might not have been so eager to spend the summer at his uncle's fishtrap in Alaska. Steve had welcomed the invitation because he had already chosen commercial fisheries for a career. Helping at the fishtrap, Steve realized, would give him practical experience along with a chance to earn good money during the fishing season to help with college expenses.

Steve had been at Cultus Cove only a week when the unexpected began to happen. Fogarty, who had bossed the driving of the fishtrap, wanted to be made watchman of the trap. When Uncle Joe, suspecting him of being a fish pirate, refused him the job, Fogarty threatened revenge. Next, Uncle Joe was taken suddenly and critically ill and had to be rushed to a hospital ten miles down the coast at Akut Bay mission.

So it was that Steve, without any training or experience, was left in charge of his uncle's fishtraps. What happened then makes the powerful story which comes to you older boys in your new book, *The Trap* by Kenneth Gilbert. Of course Steve could never have done it entirely alone. A friendship already made with Johnny Buck, grandson of the Indian chieftain Talks-with-Bears, brings companionship for Steve, as well as advice, during the dangers of guarding the traps against Fogarty and the other fish pirates. And twice Steve faces a grizzly—once while with Johnny and once while alone. Thrilling reading for you all!

Both the author and the artist are Junior Guild friends. On page fourteen is a message from Kenneth Gilbert, and on the back cover you will read about the other Junior Guild books written by Mr. Gilbert or illustrated by Fred Collins.

The Trap by Kenneth Gilbert is the new Junior Literary Guild selection for older boys. It is published in the regular trade edition by Henry Holt and Company, Inc., at $2.50. Dewey Classification: F (Fiction). Subject heading: Pirates—Fiction.

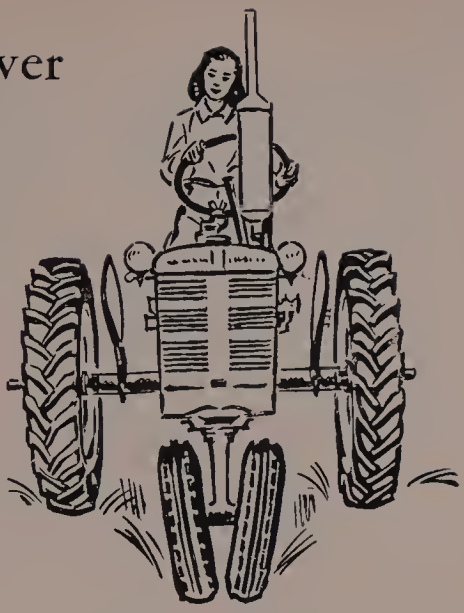
Letty Takes Over

"SELL the farm!" cried Letty, staring at her older sister. So that was why Marsha had brought Jerry Norton out from town. He had come, not as a friend, but as a real-estate agent. Letty turned to her mother. "Oh, Mums!" she pleaded. "You wouldn't sell the farm, would you?" Then, remembering her

mother's weak heart, she added quietly, "I'm sorry I got so excited," while she dropped to her knees beside Mums.

Of course running the farm had not been easy, especially since Dad's death. Letty had no one to help her except young Joan, the orphaned cousin. Marsha had never cared for the farm. She worked in town, spending only week ends at home. She used her salary on herself, often having to borrow from Letty to pay her room rent. And so Marsha's only thought was to sell the farm.

But Letty wanted to keep the farm, and so did Mother and Joan. In *Thanks to Letty* Dorothy Burke tells you older girls the



story of a brave new heroine and her struggles to keep her family in their farm home. A mortgage payment due, the loss of her precious emerald ring, threats to the crops from bad weather—these were only a few of Letty's problems. Along with the hard times came good times, as in the arrival of Uncle Charlie, the concern and help of neighbors, parties and county fairs, and—even romance.

Another new Junior Guild author, Dorothy Burke, is introduced to you on page thirteen. The artist for her book is Gertrude Howe, who has illustrated several other Junior Guild books, as you will see on the back cover of YOUNG WINGS.

Thanks to Letty by Dorothy Burke is the new Junior Guild selection for older girls. It is published in the regular trade edition by Rand McNally and Company at $2.75. Dewey Classification: F (Fiction). Subject heading: Farm life—Fiction.

Kittens Always!

by Clare Turlay Newberry

THE FIRST drawing which I distinctly remember making was of a kitten. I was about four years old, and I copied the kitten from *The Mother's Magazine,* using a pencil and a piece of ruled paper. How proud and happy I was! For several years after that, I drew the same sort of kittens—little boy and girl kittens in suits and dresses. I colored them with crayons or water colors, being careful to show all the buttons and shoelaces. I also liked to copy pictures out of the comics. Sometimes I traced them, but I felt this was cheating and was ashamed whenever I did it.

My younger brother and I did not have many books, but we loved the ones we had. First there were *Peter Rabbit, Little Black Sambo,* and *Mother Goose.* Later we had volumes of Grimms' and Andersen's tales without illustrations, which we read and reread for years. Our mother read aloud to us a great deal, and I remember how we used to laugh until we rolled on the floor while she was reading "Little Claus and Big Claus." I still think that is one of the funniest stories in the world.

With your new Junior Guild author is her daughter, Felicia Trujillo

At seven I began to plan my future. I soon decided that I wanted to illustrate fairy tales. That continued to be my ambition for many years, and I illustrated several of my favorites when I was thirteen or fourteen. I still have an unfinished series of water colors I did for "The History of Blondine," from *French Fairy Tales,* by Countess de Segur. Of all my fairy tales, I loved that book best. My mother had found it in a secondhand bookshop, and even then it was so old that it was falling to pieces and part of the story, "The Princess Rosette," was missing. I still have never

found out what happened to her on those lost pages.

I was about twelve when I was given *The Fairy Bird and Piggy Wig,* an English book written and illustrated by Mabel Chadburn. It was the only beautifully illustrated book I owned as a child, and I copied and imitated the pictures for years. This book, more than any other I'm sure, influenced my style of writing and drawing.

One of the greatest thrills of my life came when, at sixteen, I sold my first drawings. They were a series of paper dolls and were bought by the magazine for boys and girls, *John Martin's Book.*

Ever on the move!

In all my books except *Herbert the Lion* and *Lambert's Bargain,* the children and the animals are real. My son Stephen posed for the pictures of the boy in *Mittens* and *Barkis.* My daughter Felicia is the baby in *T-Bone the Babysitter* and the girl in *Percy, Polly, and Pete.* Some of the animals were my own pets, and others were borrowed. And very nearly everything I have written about really did happen.

I was born on April 10, 1903, in Enterprise, Oregon, but spent most of my childhood in Vancouver, Washington. After graduating from Vancouver High School, I had a year at the University of Oregon and then attended the art school at the Portland, Oregon, Art Museum and the San Francisco School of Fine Arts. In 1930 I went to Paris. There I began to draw from life rather than copying or drawing things "out of my head." My husband, Henry V. Trujillo, and our daughter Felicia and I are now living in Mexico City.

My Interest in Fire Engines Led M

by Elizabeth Morton

IT WOULD seem that fire engines and firehouses have always fascinated me. I have been told that when I was only three years old, my father took me to a fire. He woke me that night long after I had been put to bed, wrapped me in a blanket, and carried me to a big lumber yard fire a few blocks from our home. He held me up on his shoulder so that I could see over the heads of the other people. My mother, of course, thought he was crazy to do such a thing. But he just laughed when we got back home and said that I had loved the fire.

Even now, I run to my office window whenever I hear a fire siren, and I watch to see whether it is a pumper or a hose cart or an insurance patrol that is rushing off to a fire.

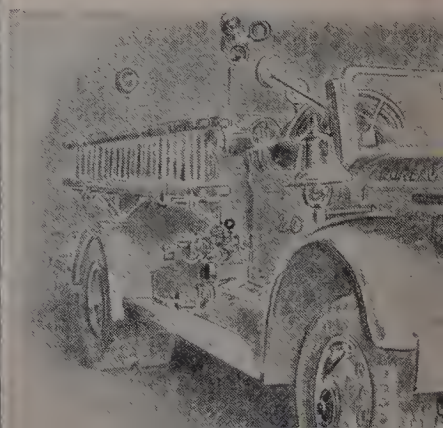
That is how I became acquainted with the real Rags in *Rags, The Firehouse Dog.* Rags rides on the pumper to all the fires in the section of Philadelphia where Engine Company Number 20 is located. Proudly she sits between the two firemen on the seat of the pumper, just as I have described her in the book.

One day I stopped at the firehouse, which is just around the corner from my office, and asked about Rags. I learned that she is a crossbreed between a wire-haired terrier and a sheep dog. She wandered into the firehouse about five years ago and stayed there, promptly making herself at home.

Photographs by Faust's Photo Service

Morgan Dennis, Miss Morton, and Rags

Here is a sketch Morgan Dennis made
Engine Company Number 20's new pu



the Real Rags

The experiences that Rags has in my story she had in real life. After I started to write her story, she visited me in my office. And she took part in a fashion show sponsored by the Pennsylvania SPCA, where she became Miss Representative Mutt and received as much applause as did the stately Afghan hounds, the husky boxers, or the haughty poodles.

Morgan Dennis, who did the pictures for *Rags, The Firehouse Dog,* studied art both in Boston and in England and has always liked to draw dogs. It was shortly after studying etching at Provincetown that he started to specialize in etchings of dogs. He says that the real Rags was the best dog model he ever had. She posed for him just as nicely as she sat for the photographer who took the picture that is on the back of the book jacket, as well as the photographs reproduced on these pages. He had a wonderful time, too, sketching the pumper. What do you think the Fire Department did for him? They ran the pumper out of the firehouse onto a side street so that he could see all the details of the engine.

Above, visitors at an autographing party held at Clinton Mellor's bookshop in Haverford, Pennsylvania

Many boys and girls attended a party given at Clinton Mellor's bookshop in Haverford, Pennsylvania, during Fire Prevention Week. A new fire truck belonging to the Ardmore Fire Department was parked outside the shop. Mr. Dennis and I were kept busy autographing copies of our book.

I Believe My Pony's Responsible

by Carol Ryrie Brink

I GREW UP in the college town of Moscow, Idaho, where I was born on December 28, 1895. I married a professor and have always lived near a university.

One fall day when my husband and I were going to a football game, I noticed the boys and girls whose homes were near the stadium parking cars in their back yards for a charge of twenty-five cents. During the football season they were in the midst of a delightful hullabaloo of popcorn, whistles, balloons, flying pennants, and college spirit. I heard them chanting happily the name of the particular football hero of that year. His name sounded like a name in a nursery rhyme. Then I recalled the adventures my own two children had experienced with their friends among the faculty children, and it occurred to me that I had never read a book about faculty families. And so, before long, I was busily writing *Family Grandstand*. And that is how I happened to call my football player by the nursery-rhyme name of Tommy Tucker.

I have written eleven other books, three of them for grown-ups and the others for young people. One of my books, *Caddie Woodlawn,* won the John Newbery Medal as the most distinguished book for children of 1935.

As long as I can remember, I have enjoyed reading and have wanted to write. When I was a child, I had a fat, sorrel pony, and I believe that he was more responsible for my career as a writer than any of my teachers were. I rode him all over the hills and valleys of my home *(Turn to page 18)*

Meet Carol Ryrie Brink, your author, and the Ridgeway family

Meet Dorothy Burke, your author, and the farmers, Letty and Joan

For Me—Farming

by Dorothy Burke

READING, writing, farming, and my family, with decided emphasis on the last mentioned, are my strongest interests.

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on February 25, 1913, and had my first farm experience at the age of four, when my father tried onion farming in Iowa. Had he raised corn, which is better suited to Iowa's soil and climate, perhaps I'd be there still. The onion venture failed, and we returned to Milwaukee. But we moved again in a few years to Green Bay and, a year later, to Sheboygan, both in Wisconsin.

In Sheboygan, I lived for years across the road from Lake Michigan and thought no place could be as interesting as the lake with its ever-changing colors and moods. I received most of my schooling in Sheboygan, and both my children were born there.

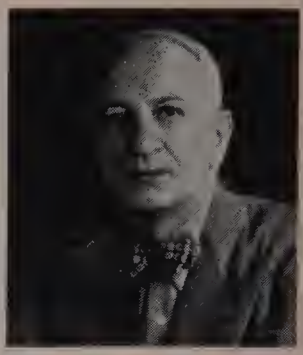
At fourteen, I spent two weeks with relatives on a farm in South Dakota. To my delight, they let me cultivate corn with the mule team. By the time I left, my skin was so dark and leathery that it was hard to tell the difference between me and the mules. That was the beginning of my attraction to farming. Later, after marriage, I spent three years on a farm near Green Bay, Wisconsin, and was convinced that farming was the life for me.

If I was ever to be cured, it should have been by the year and a half that I lived on a Michigan farm, where I raised a large garden, canned four hundred quarts of fruits and vegetables, did most of the housework, and, in addition, drove twenty-three miles daily to a five-and-a-half-day per week job in Battle Creek. Despite all the work, I enjoyed it so much that I picked Michigan as the locale for *Thanks to Letty*.

I started writing six years ago. I have sold a few (*Turn to page 19*)

Things Happen in Alaska

by Kenneth Gilbert



Kenneth Gilbert, who is well acquainted with the Pacific Northwest

THE SETTING of *The Trap* is southeastern Alaska, for years familiar ground to me. I have seen more fishtraps than I can remember. I have mushed above timber line and through mosquito-infested muskeg swamps. Once I explored country which neither white man nor red had ever visited, as far as records show.

You won't find Cultus Cove and its big fishtrap on any map. But, given a fast speedboat and a fair day out of Ketchikan, I can take you there and introduce you to Steve and Uncle Joe, Johnny Buck and his grandfather—under other names, of course. I can show you the Thlinget village with its weathered totem poles. If you're willing to risk meeting a bear face to face, I can show you the river trail where Johnny "talked down" a grizzly. I won't promise, however, to attempt that feat. Bears may understand the Chinook jargon, but they don't speak *my* language. If there's time, I can even take you to the *tamanawos* island at the mouth of the cove.

Alaska—the entire Pacific Northwest, for that matter—has always appealed to me because much of it is still unspoiled by civilization. Things happen there. Adventure is in the very air that you breathe in the back country. You are on your own in a land as primitive and rugged as it was before the white men came. There's no telling what lies ahead, what enthralling story you'll bring home. *The Trap* is typical. The fish pirates are real. While writing the story, I read a news dispatch about two fish pirates who had been caught and given long prison sentences. Yes, much of the Pacific Northwest is still frontier, and some of us hope that it will long remain that way.

Welcome, New Members, to Our Club

HELLO, everybody! Happy New Year to you all! And to you new Members a special welcome from Helen Ferris, our Editor-in-Chief, and from all of us here at the Junior Guild.

And here is an extra-special welcome from a long-time Member of your Book Club. Nancy Ann Davis, age 13, of Herndon, Virginia, writes: "A hearty welcome to you new Members. I'm sure you will enjoy the Junior Guild books as much as I have enjoyed them. I have been a Member for nine years. I started getting books before I could read. My first book was *Yonie Wondernose*, by Marguerite de Angeli, and I was very proud of it. During these years I have been in three different age groups. For several years now I have been getting the books for older girls, and I hope to get them for several more years. A few years ago I gave most of my Junior Guild books to our town library. There they are well read and enjoyed by the town's boys and girls. The books which I kept my small niece is enjoying."

A greeting comes to you also from another long-time Member: Peggy-Anne Hurlbut, age 13, of Watkins Glen, New York. "Each book has been wonderful," she writes, "and I never can wait for my next Junior Guild book." Her young cousin Jimmy, who is in the picture with Peggy-Anne, likes to look at the pictures in her first books, *Yonie Wondernose*, by Marguerite de Angeli, and *The Big Fire*, by Elizabeth Olds. Peggy-Anne says she hopes to be a Member for several years yet.

What do *you* think of the Junior Guild books? Are you enjoying them? If you are, why not

Nancy Ann Davis, at the left, and Peggy-Anne Hurlbut with her cousin Jimmy

write us a letter and tell us so. Don't you know what to say? Well, just think about the book you have read and ask yourself: "Why do I like it?" Then write your answer. You do not need to tell the story again, but you might tell which part or parts you enjoyed most. If there's some book which you did not enjoy, write us about it. Tell us your reason for not liking it. We want to hear exactly what you think about your books, good or bad. On each letter be sure to put your name, your age, and your address. If you have a picture of yourself, send it along with your letter to YOUNG WINGS.

Did you receive your membership as a Christmas gift? If so, be sure to say so (*Turn to page 18*)

JUNIOR LITERARY GUILD

Our Book Club Members are the authors of these pages. You, too, may write for them if you receive Junior Guild books at home, or if you read them in school or at the public library. The best letters received are published here and those who write them become Honor Members.

WHAT I THINK OF MY JUNIOR GUILD BOOKS

My Junior Literary Guild Membership a Birthday Gift

DEAR EDITOR:

I have received six books since my mother enrolled me in the Junior Literary Guild as a birthday gift. The book I like best is *Big Mutt,* by John Reese. The reason I like it is that it shows that patience and understanding can win the affection of most animals.

Another book that I like is *South Sea Adventure,* by Willard Price.

Yours truly,
BOB TRAVISON, AGE 12
ALBANY, NEW YORK

My Sister Reads and Enjoys My Junior Guild Books, Too

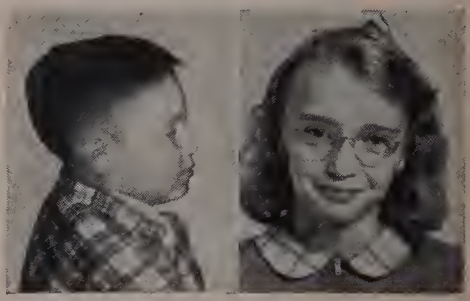
DEAR EDITOR:

My teacher read Junior Guild books to our class when we were in the fifth grade. I thought they were very good. She said her son was a Member of the Junior Guild. I wanted to join, and so I took my allowance, and my mother entered me in the Book Club.

I now have eight books. I liked them all very much, but my favorites are: *Julia Valeria,* by Elizabeth Gale; *The Mystery of Hidden Village,* by Annette Turngren; *Strong Wings,* by Mabel Louise Robinson; *Copper's Chance,* by Jane S. McIlvaine; and *The Right Job for Judith,* by Enid Johnson. I like them because the people seem real and alive.

Junior Guild books are very good for book reports. My sister reads all my books and enjoys them as much as I do. Many of our friends borrow them.

Yours truly,
CAROL STEWARD, AGE 11
CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN



Bob Travison of Albany, New York, and Carol Steward of Charlotte, Michigan

My Teacher Likes to Have Me Bring My Books to School

DEAR EDITOR:

I am a new Member of the Junior Literary Guild. My grandmother gave me my subscription for my birthday. My younger sister likes the books as much as I do.

I take my books to school, and the teacher reads them to us. That way about thirty-five more children get to hear and enjoy the stories. The teacher is glad to have me bring them.

I hope I can continue receiving Junior Guild books for a long time. My favorite is *The Haunted Hound,* by Robb White.

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA GOODMAN, AGE 8
BENTON, KENTUCKY

I Have Enjoyed Reading All My Junior Guild Books

DEAR JUNIOR GUILD:

I want to thank you for the many wonderful books you have sent me. I have enjoyed every book I have received, especially *Julia Valeria,* by Elizabeth Gale, and *Behold Your Queen!* by Gladys

HONOR DEPARTMENT

In your letter, tell about your favorite Junior Guild books and why you like them. Put your name, age, and address on your letter and send in a snapshot of yourself. An inscribed book for your own library is awarded to the writer of every letter published in our Honor Department.

WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF OUR BOOK CLUB

Barbara Goodman of Benton, Kentucky, and Norma Reasin of Papeete, Tahiti

Malvern. I also like *Kay Everett Calls CQ,* by Amelia Lobsenz, and *Blue Ribbons for Meg,* by Adèle de Leeuw.

My father has enjoyed reading my books. He has read *The Door in the Wall,* by Marguerite de Angeli, and *The Little Grey Men,* by Denys Watkins-Pitchford many times.

Thank you again for the many fine books you have sent me.

Yours truly,
NORMA REASIN, AGE 12
PAPEETE, TAHITI

Every Book I Receive Is Better than the One Before

DEAR JUNIOR GUILD:

Every book that I receive from you is better than the one before. It is hard to pick my favorites. I have been a Member for over six years. The books I liked best in the youngest group were: *Angelo the Naughty One,* by Helen Garrett, and *Curious George Takes a Job,* by H. A. Rey. In the next group I liked *Turnip-seed Jones,* by Edward W. Mammen; *Mystery at Boulder Point,* by Eleanore M. Jewett; and *The Canvas Castle,* by Alice Rogers Hager. In the older group I liked *Francie,* by Emily Hahn. My library consists of about a hundred books, eighty being Junior Guild books.

I am the best reader for understanding and expression in my class, and I owe it to my mother for starting me on your wonderful books when I was six.

Sincerely yours,
PRISCILLA J. OMAN, AGE 12
EAST WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

For Tops in Reading Choose Junior Literary Guild Books

DEAR MISS FERRIS:

I have read many Junior Guild books and think they are wonderful. The one I liked best was *Shortstop Shadow,* by Howard M. Brier. I liked best where Randy knocked a home run against Idaho Tech. Randy's expedition into Mineral City kept me in suspense to the very end. For tops in mystery, excitement, and adventure, *Shortstop Shadow* is the book. For good literature, I recommend Junior Guild books.

Yours truly,
ROSS RICHARDSON, AGE 13
SHERIDAN, WYOMING

I Have Been Enjoying Junior Guild Books for Six Years

DEAR JUNIOR GUILD:

I have been in the Junior Guild for six years, and I have enjoyed every book. One of my favorites is *Sleeping Mines,* by Gertrude E. Finney. I liked this book because it is adventurous.

My grandmother has given me my Junior Guild books ever since I was in the first grade. I like them very much.

Yours truly,
MARGARET ELLIS, AGE 11
TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

I Believe My Pony's Responsible—for My Career

(*Continued from page 12*)

in northern Idaho. As I rode along, noting the flowers and the birds and the light on the mountains and wheat fields, I was busy telling myself wonderful stories. Some of them were long, continued stories. Some, I am sure, were better stories than I have ever been able to get down on paper. I had a good time.

Some of my favorite books when I was young were E. Nesbit's stories about the Bastable children; the books about the Wizard of Oz; Louisa May Alcott's *Under the Lilacs* and *Little Women*. Later I loved *Kidnapped* and *Treasure Island* and—well, everything Robert Louis Stevenson wrote. My aunt used to read Charles Dickens's books aloud to me, and my husband and I still enjoy reading Dickens aloud. In fact, family reading aloud is one of our many pleasures, as are also traveling, walking, and living out-of-doors in the summer.

I have three very young grandchildren now. Perhaps that is why I am once again writing books for boys and girls as well as for grown-up people.

Welcome, New Members, to Our Junior Guild Book Club

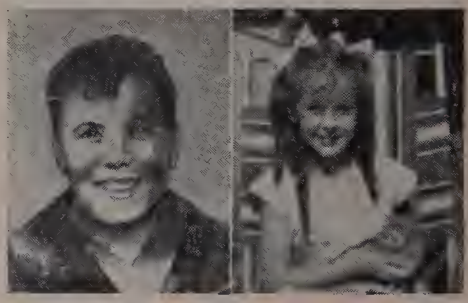
(*Continued from page 15*)

in your letter so that we can feature your letter and your picture, if you have one, when Christmas time comes around next year.

Working in the library has brought a greater interest in books to Cynthia Cooper, age 11, of Floral Park, New York. She particularly enjoyed *Julia Valeria,* by Elizabeth Gale, and says: "Our class was studying Rome at the time I read it. One of the things I liked about it was that I could learn about Rome and have a good story, too."

The students in the eighth grade classes at Oak School in La Grange, Illinois, enjoy Junior Guild books and YOUNG WINGS, their teacher, Miss Alta McAfee, writes. Mac Toates, age 13, is

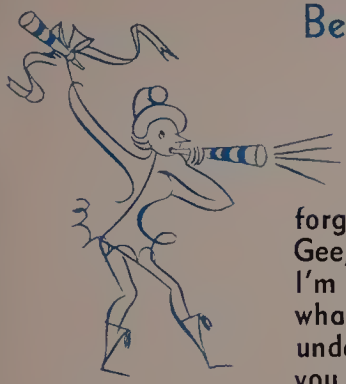
Marylou, Eleanor, and Jack Hall



Mac Toates and Cynthia Cooper

one of the many in the classes who wrote about our books. He likes them all, he says, but thinks Walter Farley's *The Blood Bay Colt* is best of all. "I have never read such a stirring and sensational book," he says. "The characters seemed real to me because they sounded like people I know in my town."

Marylou Hall, age 15, and her sister Eleanor, age 14, of Damascus, Virginia, have been Junior Guild Members for about ten years. Their younger brother Jack is enjoying the books his sisters received when they were his age, but he hopes soon to have a membership of his own. One of his favorites is *So Long Ago,* by E. Boyd Smith. He calls it the "amphibian book." The girls say that all of their friends like to borrow their Junior Literary Guild books.



Behind the Scenes with Jay Gee, the Office Elf

Happy New Year, gals and guys, from me to you! Who am I? What? You don't know me? Oh, of course, I forgot. You're a new Member. Well, I'm Jay Gee, alias the Office Elf. What do I do? I'm your pal and a super snooper, that's what. Each month I snoop around right under Helen Ferris's nose and pass along to you her secrets about the new books.

And have I some secret dope for you this month! Keep your eyes on that little black fox, you seven and eight year olds. Lots can happen between the foxes' burrow and the big white house where Nicky lives. What happens? You'll see. As for you five and six year olds, keep your eyes open, too. That's all I'm telling you. Look—look—look! Surprise! And you nine, ten, and eleven year olds will be singing, "Oh, say can you see . . ." The fort needs a flag. The fort needs larger guns. What can Sam and Caroline do to help? Your story tells you.

Janet didn't mean to break a promise, older gals. She just didn't think. And her carelessness brought heaps of trouble, a summer of hard, hard work—the judge's order—and a new boy friend! It's a race for you older guys, a race of men and ships from all the planets. You'll pinch-hit with Jerry as jockey for his brother's rocket and race all through space in the Classics.

"For Me—Farming," Says Your Author, Dorothy Burke

(*Continued from page 13*)

short stories, but *Thanks to Letty* is my first book. I started it two years ago with the idea that if I could not be farming, the next best thing was writing about it.

Reading has always been my most enjoyable relaxation, and I am happy that my daughter Gail shares this interest. It's fun to recommend books and find that our tastes coincide. Our favorites have been Louisa May Alcott's books, especially *Little Women*, and the *Anne of Green Gables* series by L. M. Montgomery.

Chicago has been my home for ten years, and I have worked in offices with positions ranging from typist to purchasing agent for a diesel engineering firm. Just now I am a secretary with a firm of food importers and distributors. My daughter Gail works in the same office. My son Neil likes machinery, and he and his father are going to be the mechanics when we get our next farm. Living in Chicago has been a fine experience, but there's something about a farm that attracts us. We hope to have another soon.

One of Fred Collins's drawings for Kenneth Gilbert's "The Trap"

With the Junior Guild Everywhere

We are proud to have as the cover of this month's YOUNG WINGS the attractive picture painted by Morgan Dennis for the jacket cover of *Rags, The Firehouse Dog,* by Elizabeth Morton. Mr. Dennis is already well known to Junior Literary Guild Members through his illustrations for: *Valiant Comrades,* by Ruth Adams Knight; and *Pete* and *Lost Dog Jerry,* both by Tom Robinson.

Elizabeth Morton, author of *Rags, The Firehouse Dog,* writes: "I was born in Media, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. Later my family moved to Chestnut Hill, another suburb, where I attended public schools and, later, Drexel Institute. I had thought I wanted to teach. But after finishing school, I entered a publishing house and learned how to prepare stories for Sunday school periodicals. My next editorial position was with The John C. Winston Company. There I helped edit schoolbooks and occasionally read proof. One day I was asked to prepare for publication the manuscript of a book written by a woman who had been for many years a social service worker in China. Thus began a friendship which has lasted through the years, for the author was Elizabeth Foreman Lewis and the book, *Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze,* a Junior Literary Guild selection and Newbery Medal winner. Later I was given the position which I still hold: editor of books for boys and girls. I still live in Chestnut Hill with my elderly father and an old black cocker spaniel, the inspiration for several of my stories and articles published in children's magazines."

We are welcoming back this month an author and three more artists whose books our Members have enjoyed. Kenneth Gilbert, the author of *The Trap,* wrote your *Arctic Venture.* Fred Collins, the artist for *The Trap,* made the pictures for *The Ghost Hollow Mystery,* by Page Carter. Jean Macdonald Porter, who illustrated *Family Grandstand,* by Carol Ryrie Brink, was the artist for: *The Secret of Donkey Island,* by Lavinia R. Davis; *A Race for Bill,* by May Nickerson Wallace; and *Roof over Our Heads,* by Marguerite Dickson. Gertrude Howe, the artist for *Thanks to Letty,* by Dorothy Burke, illustrated: *Candy,* by Robb White; *The Seventh Step,* by Helen Girvan; and *Beany Malone* and *Leave It to Beany!* both by Lenora Mattingly Weber.

THE JUNIOR LITERARY GUILD
The Book Club for Young Readers
Garden City, New York Toronto, Canada

The Junior Literary Guild is the Book Club for all young readers between the ages of five and sixteen. With the yearly membership each Member receives one new book every month for a year—twelve books in all—and a copy of YOUNG WINGS *with every book. Your friends will be glad to know about our Book Club. Full information may be obtained from The Junior Literary Guild, Garden City, New York.*

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